GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4762
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
NATIONAL MEASLES IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME
Shaheen Shri Abdul Rashid

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fifty per cent children in Uttar Pradesh and one third children in Bihar have not been immunized under the National Measles Immunization Programme;and

(b) if so, the steps taken to control the virus by immunizing,surveillance and other methods?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Yes sir, As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) -III data, the coverage of Measles vaccine in Uttar Pradesh is 37.5% and in Bihar it is 40.4%.

(b) Measles vaccine is given to children between the age group of 9-12 months under the Universal Immunization Programme. The Government of India has taken following steps under the Universal Immunization Programme to improve the measles coverage :

1. To increase the window of opportunity for high measles coverage, the age for giving 1st dose of measles vaccine has been extended to 60 months of age for all children missed during 9-12 months of age.

2. The Government has initiated setting up surveillance systems in the country to assess the magnitude of measles problem and ensure that quality data are available for action. Measles surveillance is currently being conducted in the States of Tamil Nadu,Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. The plan is to expand surveillance in a phased manner to the rest of the country.